



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,465	11/05/2003	Tomonori Harada	Q78326	8804
23373	7590	05/18/2004	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

84

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/700,465	HARADA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho D. Ta	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/5/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the resilient piece portions" in lines 10-12, 23, 27.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the inter connection portion" in line 26. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the resilient piece portions" in lines 15, 16. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the wide part" in line 24. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Foege et al. (4,379,611).

In regard to claim 1, Foege et al. discloses a female terminal 20 comprising: a support portion 32; a pair of resilient strip portions 34 supported by the support portion 32 at one end of each resilient strip portion 34 so that surfaces of the resilient strip portions 34 oppose to each other such that parts of the resilient strip portions 34 on distal end sides thereof are close to each other for clamping a mating terminal each other; a protective portion 48 provided on a side from which the mating terminal is inserted between the resilient piece portions 34 so as to cover distal end portions of the resilient piece portions 34, and having an opening 50 for inserting the mating terminal; and a strip-like interconnecting portion 40 interconnecting the protective portion 48 and the support portion 32, and provided with a wide portion 44. (see figures 4 and 5), which has a width larger than another part of the interconnecting portion 40, at an end thereof adjacent to a side of the protective portion 48; wherein the support portion 32, the resilient strip portions 34, the protective portion 48 and the interconnecting portion 40 are integrally formed by bending a metal plate; wherein the interconnecting portion 40 is disposed between the pair of resilient piece portions 34 and a notch 47 is formed at least between one side edge of the interconnection portion 40 and one side edge of the resilient piece portions 34 opposing to the inter connection portion 40 so that the side edge of the resilient piece portion 34 has a shape substantially coincide with the side edge of the interconnecting portion 40 in a developed condition of the female terminal 20.

Art Unit: 2833

5. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heim Mueller et al. (6,033,262).

In regard to claim 2, Heim Mueller et al. discloses a connector in which an connector comprising: electric part (column 1, lines 12-16) is mounted, the a female terminal 1; and a housing 40 having a cavity 41 for receiving the female terminal 1; the female terminal 1 including: a support portion (adjacent 21); a pair of resilient strip portions 13 supported by the support portion at one end of each resilient strip portion 13 so that surfaces of the resilient strip portions 13 oppose to each other such that parts of the resilient strip portions 13 on distal end sides thereof are close to each other for clamping a mating terminal 60 each other; a protective portion 23 provided on a side from which the mating terminal 60 is inserted between the resilient piece portions 13 so as to cover distal end portions of the resilient piece portions 13, and having an opening for inserting the mating terminal 60; and a strip-like interconnecting portion (the bottom piece where 26 extends from) interconnecting the protective portion 23 and the support portion, and provided with a wide portion 26, which has a width larger than another part of the interconnecting portion, at an end thereof adjacent to a side of the protective portion 23; wherein an abutment portion (adjacent 44, see fig. 3) projects from a wall face of the housing 40, and the wide part 26 of the interconnecting portion abuts against the abutment portion when the female terminal 1 is inserted into the cavity 41 in an improper manner.

In regard to claim 3, Heim Mueller et al. discloses that the abutment portion is disposed on a rear position in an inserting direction of the female terminal 1 into the cavity 41 with respect to a position where a front end of the female terminal 1 is accommodated when the female terminal is properly inserted in the cavity 41.

In regard to claim 3, Heim Mueller et al. discloses that the connector is provided in the automotive field. In regard to the recitations "a fuse box and receives a fuse as the electrical part", it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Ex parte Masham, 2-USPQ2d-1647 (1987).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2833

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt
05/13/04